

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8808

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC //DI-5// PRIORITY

S E C R E T NICOSIA 1376

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT CY

SUBJECT: SAMPSON'S FOREIGN MINISTER

1. DIMIS "DIMMY" DIMITRIOU, MIT GRADUATE AND BROTHER OF CYPRUS AMBASSADOR TO U.S. NICOSI DIMITRIOU, CALLED ON ME AT RESIDENCE AT ONE P.M. TODAY TO EXPLAIN WHY HE HAD ACCEPTED POST OF FOREIGN MINISTER UNDER "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION" HEADED BY NICOS SAMPSON.

2. DIMITRIOU SAID HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED THIS MORNING FROM LARNACA AND HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO NEW PRESIDENT WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY ONE MAJOR SKIATHES (SIC) (SKIADIS?) WHO HAD ARRIVED FROM ATHENS AS ENVOY OF GENERAL IOANNIDES. LATTER HAD INDICATED THAT IN CRISIS OF HELLENISM ATHENS WANTED HIM TO SERVE THE NATION AND NEW GOVT AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

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3. DIMITRIOU SAID HE TOLD SAMPSON AND GREEK ENVOY THAT

THIS COULD HAVE DISASTROUS IMPACT ON HIS BUSINESS INTERESTS AS WELL AS ON HIS RELATIONS WITH HIS BROTHER NICOS WHO WAS FIRM ADMIRER AND SUPPORTER OF MAKARIOS. PRESIDENT AND MAJOR SKIATHES SAID THAT IN INTEREST OF NATION HIS PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS MUST BE "PUT ASIDE." DIMITRIOU ANSWERED THAT HE WAS PROFOUNDLY PRO-AMERICAN AS WELL AS ANTI-COMMUNIST AND COULD ONLY SERVE IF HIS TIES TO U.S. ARE RECOGNIZED. ANSWER WAS THAT THESE WERE AMONG REASONS WHY NEW REGIME DESIRED HIM AS FOREIGN MINISTER.

4. DIMITRIOU RAN DOWN LIST OF CABINET, NOTING THAT HIS COUSIN PANTELIS DIMITRIOU WOULD TAKE OVER DEFENSE AND INTERIOR. LATTER WAS CLOSE FRIEND OF IOANNIDES AND HAD AGREED TO SERVE DESPITE FACT HE WAS IN ILL HEALTH. BOTH FELT IT WAS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE AT THIS TIME THAT THEY FILL SPOTS IN NEW CABINET RATHER THAN HAVING THESE GO TO EXTREMISTS. HE SAID THAT IF NEW GOVT WAVERED IN ANY WAY FROM COMPLETELY PRO-WESTERN PRO-AMERICAN STANCE, HE WOULD DEPART. HE SAID CYPRUS WOULD CONTINUE PAST POLICIES INCLUDING INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT AND CONTINUATION OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS.

5. IN SHORT, DIMITRIOU SEEMED PLEADING FOR OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHY HE HAD ACCEPTED POST IN COUP GOVT.

6. I RESPONDED THAT WE MUST CONSIDER OUR CONVERSATION AS BETWEEN FRIENDS SINCE I WAS ACCREDITED TO GOVT OF ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS, AND PENDING RESOLUTION OF DIFFICULTIES ON ISLAND, HIS WAS GOVT WE RECOGNIZED.

7. DIMITRIOU RESPONDED THAT HE REALIZED THIS BUT HAD ASKED PRESIDENT SAMPSON FOR OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM HIS CLOSE FRIENDS IN U.S. EMBASSY OF HIS DECISION AND REASONS THEREFOR. NOT ONLY DID SAMPSON AND MAJOR SKIATHES CONCUR, BUT ESCORT PROVIDED.

8. DIMITRIOU SAID FIRST TELEGRAM HE WOULD SEND AS FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE TO WASHINGTON URGING HIS BROTHER TO REMAIN AS CYPRUS' AMBASSADOR. HE FELT THAT UNLESS THOSE WHO WISHED TO SEE PROGRESS OUT OF PRESENT MORASS PITCHED IN, FIELD WOULD
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BE OPEN TO DANGEROUS INFLUENCES.

9. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS HE SAID (A) DR. LYSSARIDES, LEFTIST SUPPORTER OF MAKARIOS, HAD TAKEN REFUGE IN AN ARAB (PROBABLY SYRIAN) EMBASSY; (B) CLERIDES, FOR WHOM HE HAD GREATEST RESPECT WAS AT HOME, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD CONTINUE AS NEGOTIATOR IN INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. HE NOTED THAT TWO MEMBERS OF NEW CABINET WERE FROM CLERIDES

CENTER UNION PARTY. (EARLIER, FROM BRITISH, WE HEARD THAT FOREIGN MINISTER JOHN CHRISTOPHIDES HAD ESCAPED HARM AND WAS AT HOME AS WAS VENIAMIN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY); (C) HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER ARCHBISHOP WAS ALIVE. HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY GEN. GEORJKATSI THAT MAKARIOS WAS DEFINITELY DEAD. ARCHBISHOP'S VOICE WAS EASY TO IMITATE. HE DECRIED BBC ACCOUNTS OF MAKARIOS' SURVIVAL AS BEING DESIGNED TO POUR OIL ON FIRE AND SAID VOA HANDLING OF RUMOR WAS FAR MORE BALANCED. DIMITRIOU STRESSED HIS HOPE BROTHER WOULD REMAIN WASHINGTON AND WOULD WELCOME GIST OF ABOVE BEING PASSED WHEN NEXT NICOS IN CONTACT WITH DEPT.
DAVIES

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